Beautification of Jhelum river

1052. SHRI T. S.BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any plan for the restoration and beautification of river Jhelum in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether any detailed project from the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has been received in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total estimated expenditure of the project; and

(e) the amount released and utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e)Government of Jammu and Kashmir submitted pre-feasibility reports for four towns, Ananthnag, Srinagar, Sopore and Baramullah for taking up works for pollution abetment of river Jhelum under the National River Conservation Plan in 1977 at an estimated cost of Rs. 284.42 crore to Ministry of Environment and Forests. After examination, the Ministry of Environment and Forests sought some clarifications from the State Government and subsequently asked to prepare and submit a Detailed Project Report for the four towns. No Detailed Project Report has been submitted by State Government.

No proposal has been submitted to Ministry of Tourism and Development for beautification of river Jhelum.

As far as Ministry of Water Resources is concerned a proposal for "Critical Anti-erosion Works, Drainage improvement and Enhancing Flood Channel Capacity at Critical Reaches of River Jhelum" estimated to cost Rs.12 crore submitted by the State Government was techno-economically apprised by Central Water Commission (CWC). Investment clearance for the same was accorded by Planning Commission in November, 2006. The scheme was included under State Sector schemes of Ministry of Water Resources, *i.e.* "Critical Anti-erosion Works in Coastal and other than Ganga Basin States" for funding by the Government of India. Government of India has released Rs.809 lakhs for the scheme "Critical Anti-erosion Works, Drainage Improvement and Enhancing Flood Channel Capacity at Critical Reaches of River Jhelum", out of which an amount of Rs.92 lakhs has been utilized by the State Government upto June, 2007. The revised scheme incorporating the provision for construction of a weir at Chattabal and increasing other items has been submitted to CWC.

Dependency on rains for cultivation

1053. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 60 years after Independence, more than 66 per cent of cultivation in the country is still dependent on rains;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are 388 incomplete irrigation projects spread all over the country of which 340 were started before 1992 and 40 before 1974;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these projects would have brought 20 Mha of land under irrigation compared to the only 7 Mha worth of irrigation facility at persent; and

(d) if so, the reason for delay and the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) According to the Land Use Statistics for 2003-04 compiled by Ministry of Agriculture, the net sown area in the country is estimated to be 140.9 million hectare and the net irrigated area is 55.1 million hectare *i.e.* 39.10%.

(b) The Working Group on Water Resources for the Xlth Five Year Plan constituted by the Planning Commission in its report mentioned about spill over of 388 major and medium irrigation projects into Xlth Plan. This includes 23 projects which started prior to Vth Plan and a total of 157 projects which were taken up prior to April, 1992. In addition, 89 ERM projects are also identified as projects spilled over to Xlth Plan.

(c) As per the report of the Working Group on Water Resources for the Xlth Five Year Plan, the total envisaged irrigation potential of the 388 major and medium irrigation projects and 89 ERM projects is 19.95 million hectare out of which only 7.26 million hectare has been created so far.

(d) The important reasons for delay in completion of the projects are inadequate provisions of funds in State budget, delay in transfer of funds to the executing agencies and delay in land acquisition etc. Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are conceived, planned and implemented by the State Governments as per their own priority. The Government of India provides central assistance to the State Governments for completion of on-going irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). The AIBP criteria have been relaxed and procedures simplified to cover more projects under this programme.

CLARIFICATION BY MINISTER ON THE REPORTED REMARKS MADE BY THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON ABOUT THE INDO-US BILATERAL CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY COOPERATION AGREEMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of External Affairs is to make a statement ...*(Interruptions)*... Please let the Minister of External Affairs make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. Thank you very much.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to clarify certain points. As I understand from my colleagues, the hon. Members expressed their anguish and unhappiness over certain remarks purported to be made by the Ambassador of India in U.S.A. Sir, I contacted the Ambassador and I obtained his clarification. But I told him that we will require a fresh clarification from him. But before that, let me place on record what I am to say. It will not take more than two minutes. I will crave the indulgence of the hon. Members as one of their old colleagues.

I have contacted our Ambassador who has informed me that certain comments, either deliberately or through misunderstanding, were published by the